

Present: Mayor Naugle  
Commissioners Hutchinson, Moore, Rodstrom, and Vice Mayor Teel

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager – George Gretsas  
City Attorney - Harry Stewart  
City Clerk - Jonda K. Joseph  
Sergeant At Arms – Sergeant Mark Spencer

**I-A – Florida Department of Transportation Improvement Project – State Road 84**

Ramon Sierra, Project Manager from FDOT for SR 84, stated that engineers have been hired to develop the project, and a short presentation would be given today.

During resurfacing jobs there is always a balancing act with the engineers attempting to keep traffic flowing safely, and an opportunity to convey the beautification of the subject corridor. A letter has been submitted to the Commission identifying alternatives regarding the intersections and what can be accomplished. A conceptual approval is needed from the City Commission so they can proceed and a letter sent by FDOT regarding the landscape maintenance. They are resurfacing what presently exists. Access management of the medians is always controversial in dealing with the corridors. The accident report shows a number of injuries making access management necessary. A chart was shown depicting the areas in pink where modifications are being suggested regarding the access points. They are proposing to maintain the access at three locations from SR 84 to the local neighborhoods. There would be no left turns from the side streets crossing four lanes of traffic making left turns. Instead one would make a right turn and then make a U-turn at designated locations as appropriate. A closure would also be made at another opening to extend the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue left turn.

Other items being reviewed are the updating of the signals, replacement of lighting in certain areas, and the updating of drainage. A grant was provided in connection with landscape enhancements. At the western end, the seagrasses would be removed to improve visibility. Landscaping will be improved in the medians. Slides were shown of various areas and the improvements that would be provided. Improvements would also be made to the eastern portion as well. FDOT feels they are suggesting solutions that would work for everyone, while making the improvements that the safety analysis says is prudent to do, and doing the landscape enhancements.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if funding is going to be available regarding the lighting upgrades. Mayor Naugle asked if there is information as to how many accidents in the area have occurred at night.

FDOT said there is not a significant number of accidents that occurred at night. In regard to the lighting at the western end, they are just getting the lighting levels that are needed, and the enhancements are to be done. The funding is available for the west end. Commissioner Hutchinson asked if the lighting would be done from 26<sup>th</sup> Street to 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. FDOT confirmed.

Commissioner Hutchinson complimented Peter Partington regarding the letter that had been written to FDOT. She further said that she had attended the meetings regarding this project and they had done a good job with the presentation. She said that there was a lot of interest in Edgewood and Croissant Park regarding the U-turns that the residents are going to have to make. She said further that there is a lot of pedestrian activity on SR 84, and therefore, a crosswalk is needed at 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. She said presently pedestrians could only cross at 15<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues. She further said that regarding #5 on the list, FDOT wanted to extend the left turn lane at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue at the railroad tracks and remove existing landscaping to accomplish this. She said the only time that turn will be used is if the train is stopped. She did not see the need for this to be done. She said that the neighborhood does not want this to be done either.

Peter Partington, City Engineer, said this work is being done in accordance with FDOT standards.

FDOT said they would try and meet the minimum standards required, and review the situation.

Mayor Naugle said that this had been done on Commercial Boulevard.

Commissioner Hutchinson said that her approval of this is conditioned on the two items. She asked about the left-turn lane on Andrews Avenue. Mr. Sierra said that he would have to check the plans regarding Andrews Avenue. Commissioner Hutchinson said that the roadway would be expensive for the City to maintain once the landscaping is put in.

FDOT said that there is not a volume of traffic that would justify a pedestrian signal at 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mr. Sierra said that possibly in the future the pedestrian count would warrant a signal, and then it could be done.

Mayor Naugle asked about the curb cuts that are on Commercial Boulevard and the ones being shown for this project due to his concerns for the blind. FDOT said that the curb cuts would be centered directly on the cross walks. Mayor Naugle said that at Andrews Avenue and SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, there are crosswalks that send a person with a cane diagonally across the intersection. He said that the mast arm signals appeared to hold up the best, and he asked what was the distance from the mast arm to the edge of the sidewalk. FDOT said that it is a minimum of 40", but this project is using 48".

Mr. Partington said he believes the minimum for ADA standards is followed.

Chris O'Reilly, Consulting Engineers, said the minimum for point clearance is 34" or above, and he believes this project is at 48". He said the distance is decided on a case-by-case basis.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if drainage is being provided. Mr. O'Reilly said that drainage will be installed in various places and the ones which are in disrepair will be replaced. Commissioner Hutchinson asked if 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue is going to be affected.

Albert Carbon, Director Public Works, confirmed.

An agreement will be presented by FDOT to the City in connection with the maintenance of the area. Once it is approved, then the construction will begin on the project.

Otherwise the landscaping would be eliminated from the project and only the resurfacing would be done.

Commissioner Moore asked about the projected cost of the maintenance for the landscaping. Mr. Partington said that such information is not yet available, but such information would be provided to the Commission before the agreement is voted upon.

A grant has been provided for the landscaping, and in order to expedite the grant, FDOT would enter into an agreement with the City so the landscaping could be designed simultaneously with the road improvements.

Commissioner Hutchinson said that consideration was being given regarding irrigation in the more difficult areas, and she asked if such information could be provided. Mr. O'Reilly said that such information would be provided to the Commission.

**I-B – Disposition of Properties – Housing for Persons with AIDS “HOPWA” Program**

Commissioner Moore said he is concerned that there is a pattern developing towards a depletion of available units in this program. He said it appears that municipal entities are not aiding the non-profits providing such assistance.

Margarette Hayes, Community Development, said the municipalities have the responsibility, as administrator of the grant, for the units. She said the City has the obligation to replace such units.

Commissioner Moore said they need to build a partnership with the municipal entities that the non-profits have found to have the available housing units. He said that possibly a presentation could be made to the League of Cities regarding this program, and obtain a commitment from each municipality in the County.

Mayor Naugle said one challenge involved in trying to accomplish that is the confidentiality of the individual enrolled in the program.

The City Manager said that an outreach plan would be provided to the Commission, and the City welcomes the opportunity to help such individuals in need. He said this is a challenge to see what could be done to improve the situation.

Commissioner Moore said he is also concerned about the price of the Hollywood property because it has been rezoned to commercial. Mayor Naugle said the appraisals are not current, and possibly new ones should be done.

Commissioner Hutchinson said she is pleased they are moving forward on 637 SW 15 Avenue, but the property has not been secured. Commissioner Moore asked if anyone has shown an interest in the property.

Ms. Hayes said that staff has received approximately 20 inquiries from private investors.

Commissioner Moore said he hoped that the site close to Stranahan would be considered for attainable price units.

**I-C – Request of Greater Fort Lauderdale Sister Cities International, Inc. for Funding – 2007 International Conference**

The City Manager said that the requested budget information has been provided to the City Commission for their review regarding this event.

The requested information was presented to the Commission and was based on information that was obtained from Sister Cities International regarding costs that had been incurred at similar conferences. The County and Convention and Visitors Bureau, along with Sister Cities International, would be providing additional support similar to the amounts listed in the information, but which were not reflected in the costs. It was based on a contract between the local Sister Cities organization and Sister Cities International, Inc.

Some of the surrounding counties are also being contacted to aid in the support of this event.

**Action:** There was consensus to schedule the item on the Apr 18, 2006 regular meeting agenda.

**I-D – Action Plan for Crime Reduction Update – Police Department**

Bruce Roberts, Chief Police Department, said they are presenting the results of their six-month action plan. Last year there was an increase in crime in the City and in surrounding areas. Therefore, a study was conducted and an action plan put together to reduce crime. Four things were done which were to reorganize and redirect the tactical impact unit and the special investigation division, along with the criminal investigation division. They also aggressively filled the vacancies in the department, and provided more command staff in the department to better direct and control integrated operations. The other part of the plan was to increase the accountability crew.

Captain Carter, Tactical Impact Unit, said they are to combat violent crimes and consist of 16 officers. He said their secondary function is overall reduction of City-wide Part-I crimes. They have been successful due to information sharing and communication between the units, along with meeting with other agencies in other municipalities. The Federal Government has also been involved in certain circumstances. Another key to their success is due to the tactics and strategies that have been developed. Crime locations are targeted, along with known criminals, and surveillance with covert units. To date 98 felony arrests have been made of which 54 were in connection with burglaries. A majority of the arrests took place during crimes in progress.

Lt. Alfred Lewis, Jr., Administrative Supports Division, said they recruit, do background checks, and train units. The study which had been done suggested that vacancies be filled as quickly as possible. They have filled the available positions with a level of diversity unmatched by other police agencies. In the six months, they have filled 66 sworn police officer positions. Since July, 2005, 80 positions had been filled due to an aggressive marketing, and an innovative advertising campaign. He said there has been a 300% increase in the number of Creole speaking Haitian-American Officers, and a 200% increase in the number of white female officers, along with a 300% increase in the number of Hispanic female officers. Other demographics included Arabic descendants,

but they are aware that they need to continue moving forward in those matters, and make everyone aware that there is a fair and equitable testing process for hiring.

Commissioner Moore said the study reported that hiring efforts should be specifically tied to a goal oriented crime reduction strategy. He asked if they are hiring six officers per month as suggested by the study.

Chief Roberts said that goal has been met, and he showed a graphic to the Commission regarding vacancies and new hires. He said that presently there are 12 vacancies with 514 allocated positions.

Commissioner Moore said that the report stated that there should be a goal oriented crime reduction strategy. Therefore, he asked if six officers are being hired per month as suggested.

Chief Roberts said that goal has been met and he proceeded to show a graphic regarding police vacancies and new hires. He said that they had to catch up and now are on a path to maintain those positions.

Commissioner Moore said it appears that the department should now be hiring 12-18 officers a month. Therefore, what is the goal at this point in time. Chief Roberts said they exceeded their goal and were now down to 12 vacancies. He further said that normal attrition rate is 3%, and they are at 2%. Commissioner Moore asked if they are being proactive regarding crime reduction. Chief Roberts said they are being proactive.

Sharon Anderson, Assistant Chief Police Department, said there were four additional recommendations in the study. The first two dealt with an increased level of middle management positions in pursuit of accountability and increased crime reduction strategies. The first was in regard to re-implementing the rank of Lieutenant which had been done away with, and that has been done and they are presenting negotiating a compensation package with human resources. In the meantime, there are four acting Lieutenants who oversee the range of hiring and training, criminal investigation regarding property crimes and crimes against persons, and one in the Special Investigations Division. She said that six Lieutenant positions are planned for this fiscal year.

Assistant Chief Anderson said that the second recommendation dealt with creating the position of Executive Officer. The area is divided into three districts and three geographic areas for police purposes with a Major in charge of each district. The study recommended that each Major be given an executive officer or assistant, and they are to create and develop crime reduction strategies. The third recommendation was to hire a public safety grants coordinator, which had been done in September. The fourth recommendation dealt with filling all records vacancies which was a central repository for all reports dealing with crimes and incidents occurring in the City. If crime data is not current, then there could not be current crime strategies. Seven individuals were hired and this is an entry-level position for the Department.

Captain Sheehan, Criminal Investigations, said they were to fill 20% of their vacancies and also add an evening shift to the Detectives Division which has been done. This allows them to respond to crimes in a timely fashion, contact victims, obtain statements, and initiate follow-up investigations. It also allows them to assess the needs of victims at

the scenes. They also participate with the Operations Bureau and the Tactical Impact Unit and exchange information.

The Comstat process was explained as a crime reduction process containing three basic elements which is the analysis of the crime data, action plans being implemented, and accountability. The analysis process begins in the Crime Analysis Unit which reviews the statistics daily providing information to the patrol units listing Part-I crimes that have occurred in the last 24 hours. Part of the process involves analysis of the problems, and then arriving at an action plan. The final phase is accountability and now they meet weekly with all the units of the Department and discuss patterns of problems in the districts, and what action plan is being initiated to address such problems. Review is also done of prior plans to ensure successful outcomes. One of the recommendations made in the report was in connection with accountability of individuals coming to Comstat which is handled through the performance review process, and now is part of the employee's review.

Captain Adderley, Drug Enforcement, said the study recommended that they initiate a comprehensive drug enforcement plan. In July, 2005, the Special Investigations Division initiated operation High Impact showing the correlation between street level narcotics distribution and Part-I crimes. High Impact has two phases which are to identify targets and enforcement. Through the weekly Comstat process, street narcotic detectives are directed to areas that have a high increase in crime. They make arrests and conduct field interviews. Then the information is provided to crime analysts who review the criminal backgrounds and convictions. They have initiated through this process 15 action plans since July, arrested 173 narcotic violators, and interviewed 107 drug suspects in the area. Based on criminal histories, they have been able to identify 35 individuals considered as high impact targets. In utilizing State and Federal resources, they were able to target the 35 individuals through partnerships and successfully arrested 11 of those individuals with five pending Federal indictments who will be charged with Federal distribution charges. During the same period in 2004 and 2005, they have increased their number of narcotic arrests by 15%, and the number of felony arrests by 14%.

Chief Roberts said they have geared everything towards an accountability and review process. He further said that there has been a continual decrease in crime across the board during the implementation of these programs.

Commissioner Moore said he is concerned about a proactive approach being taken in regard to the quality of life issues in his district. He said that he sees police cars passing piles of trash in his district and areas where expensive homes are being built surrounded by overcrowded low-income housing.

Chief Roberts said that results were given to the Commission in connection with the recommendations made in the report. He agreed that the "broken windows" theory does contribute to crime in certain areas, and code enforcement and life quality issues are important. He said they have added an additional officer to the Homeless Outreach Program, and an officer has been assigned to trash removal. He added that they work with the NEAT Program also.

Commissioner Moore said further that focusing on a particular task produces more reward, but he wants to address a key issue involving a patrol person being on the road who is aware of things occurring in the neighborhoods and addressing those issues. He

asked if all patrol cars had computers. Chief Roberts said that not all did at this time, but eventually they would. He further said that code issues were now a part of the Comstat process and reports would be given on a regular basis.

The City Manager said they are facing a culture change in the organization, and at some point he hopes that all employees would report issues throughout the City to Comstat. He said the presentation given by the Police Department did not indicate they had won "the World Series," but they are beginning to win games. Changes do not happen overnight, but there has been progress.

Mayor Naugle said that possibly Code Enforcement needs to make a similar presentation to the Commission, and the code officers need to take pride of ownership and address the issues throughout the City.

The City Manager said they all share the commitment to detail and hopefully things will continue progressing.

Commissioner Moore said he favors a community policing concept, and he agrees that the Code Department needs to do their share in addressing the issues. He feels that observation by the officers in blue still need to make an impact on the communities. He asked if the Comstat methodology had been reviewed by the Sheriff's Department. Chief Roberts confirmed and said that it began in New York. He further said that Comstat is a review of how crimes are reported, and follow-up investigations are done to address the crimes.

Commissioner Moore said since the jail has been closed, what kind of arrangement is there with the Sheriff's Department. Chief Roberts said he is meeting with the Sheriff and his staff to further discuss an agreement for them to do staffing at the jail and how money could be saved in running the Police Department's booking area, which is currently run by off-duty officers and reserve officers on overtime. Arrests have risen by 21% this past year by having their own booking facility. Chief Anderson is exploring privatizing certain aspects of the booking process. The final result is they want to be able to book quickly and have the officers returned to the streets.

Commissioner Moore asked if there is an arrangement with the Sheriff's Department regarding the transporting of the department's arrestees. Chief Roberts said there is none as of this time, but that would be discussed at the meeting later this week. He also said that no one from the Police Department has been assigned to the BSO jail as of this time. Commissioner Moore asked if the Sheriff's Department was cooperating with the City, or did the City not feel this was the appropriate thing to do. Chief Roberts said there is cooperation, but the Sheriff's Department has limited staffing and that was why the transporting had been stopped. Opportunities appear to have changed, and therefore, they are attempting to work with various areas. He said they are looking at various ways to make things more efficient and save on money being spent in overtime. He also felt that effectiveness and efficiency would help in the reduction of crime.

The City Manager said that various technology issues are also being addressed.

Commissioner Moore said he feels there needs to be some agreement with either transporting the arrestees or having the opportunity of occupying the jail so the police could do their own booking more swiftly.

Mayor Naugle said they are also very crowded in their space, and it might be easier to have them agree to occupy the City's Police Department facility.

Commissioner Moore said the City jail was closed due to inefficiency of its operation.

The City Manager said further information would be presented to the Commission during the budget season.

Commissioner Moore said the study stated the City did not have enough self-generated internal affairs cases.

Captain of Internal Affairs said they investigate all complaints provided by citizens, while also generating their own investigations. Random enforcement operations are not necessarily engaged in because there did not appear to be such a need.

Commissioner Moore asked if random drug tests were done. The Captain of Internal Affairs confirmed. Commissioner Moore felt there should be self-initiated opportunities to prevent situations. IACP recommends that random regenerated integrity testing in an agency that does not have such problems is not the best course of action.

Commissioner Moore said it is his understanding that off-duty employment is a contract issue with the unions, and he asked what recommendations are being made in that regard.

Chief Roberts said they are exploring opportunities to administer off-duty employment, and currently the officers have to be approved for such employment which is based on a form submitted to the supervisors. Approvals are based on the officer's performance.

Assistant Chief Anderson said that a Committee was formed consisting of members from all levels of the Department, and they hope to provide more detailed information during the budget presentation. They want to create an administrative office to address such details.

Commissioner Moore said he wants to know how they are going to control the number of hours that an individual would work. The City Manager said that a recommendation would be provided to the Commission. The current system needs to be reformed, and the Chief was charged with making a recommendation for an action plan in this regard. Such plan would include control mechanisms to improve the situation.

Chief Roberts said that there are policy procedures regarding the number of hours an individual is permitted to work, but the problem is in administering the detail and having the controls to keep apprised of those issues.

Commissioner Moore said the study suggested a four-day workweek. Chief Roberts said the study asked them to evaluate the 4/10 versus a five-day workweek. This was evaluated, and they feel 4/10 best served their purpose at this time. Crime has been reduced and they had the time to do action plans for traffic enforcement and other issues that needed to be addressed during overlap times. He said that in the last two years using the 4/10 plan, they have saved 20% in sick time. He said that they would continue



evaluating the procedure, and if changes are necessary, they would address those situations as needed. He said that some departments work 12-hour days.

Commissioner Moore said civilian hires appear to be down and asked if that is being addressed. Officer Lewis said that they hired a total of 122 positions and 66 of those were civilian positions. They are focusing on these positions and most of the vacancies have been filled, except for a few in the records and police servicing areas. Additional emphasis is being placed on those individuals to market them better.

Commissioner Moore asked if a sufficient budget and equipment is being provided regarding technology for the Department to meet their needs. The report stated that the City's plans for purchasing new technology would improve the officers' productivity.

Chief Roberts said improvements are being made and replacement of such technology is just as important as the purchase of new equipment.

Commissioner Moore said it is important that is done for the Department in order to increase productivity. He further said that he is concerned that the issues raised in the report be addressed. Officers should be paid salaries to obtain better results as other areas of their size were doing. He wants an increase in productivity and community policing incorporated. He complimented the officers who are now interacting with the community civic associations, as well as those who attended his District III meetings. He said that the same question arises each month regarding the house of ill repute and such activities occurring in the area. He hoped that the issue would be addressed more proactively.

The City Manager thanked everyone involved in the progress made in the Police Department.

Mayor Naugle complimented everyone in the Police Department for their hard work and success.

#### **I-E – Broward League of Mayors - Dues**

Mayor Naugle said that he asked for this matter to be placed on the Commission's agenda because he did not feel this was the right course of action to be taken. He felt the organization is being fragmented.

Commissioner Hutchinson said that they now pay \$19,000 in dues.

Mayor Naugle asked if he should participate in this.

Commissioner Moore said this is not a good move because he believes they should be part of the League of Cities participating in the process.

Commissioner Hutchinson said if this is done, what is the point of having the Board of Directors.

Commissioner Moore said this is not about the Mayor refusing to pay the \$500 fee, but he would prefer to have the Mayor ask them to validate the necessity for having this group.

Mayor Naugle said that at the next meeting, he would raise these issues.

Commissioner Moore said this is not necessary, and he believes the League needs to build their leadership.

**Action:** There was no consensus to participate in the Broward League of Mayors.

#### **II-A – February 2006 Monthly Financial Report**

No discussion.

#### **II-B – Annual Report – City's Investment Results – Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2005**

Mayor Naugle said that all expectations have been exceeded.

The City Manager introduced the new Finance Director, Betty Burrell.

Betty Burrell, Finance Director, said she comes from Richmond, Virginia and briefly served as the tax collector for Dade County. She said she served as an elected official for over 11 years.

#### **II-C – Beach – Downtown Shuttle Service Update**

No discussion.

#### **III – B – Advisory Board and Committee Vacancies**

##### **Audit Committee**

**Action:** Deferred.

##### **Beach Redevelopment Advisory Board**

**Action:** Deferred.

##### **Board of Adjustment**

**Action:** Deferred

##### **Cemeteries Advisory Board**

**Action:** Deferred.

##### **Charter Revision Board**

**Action:** Deferred

##### **Civil Service Board**

Mayor Naugle recommended Bob Kauth to the Civil Service Board.

**Action:** Formal Action To Be Taken At Regular Meeting.

Community Appearance Advisory Board

**Action:** Deferred.

Community Services Board

**Action:** Deferred.

Education Advisory Board

**Action:** Deferred.

Fire-Rescue Facilities Bond Issue Blue Ribbon

**Action:** Deferred

Historic Preservation Advisory Board

**Action:** Deferred.

Marine Advisory Board

Vice Mayor Teel recommended reappointment of Eugene Zorovich to the Marine Advisory Board.

**Action:** Formal Action To Be Taken At Regular Meeting.

Northwest-Progresso-Flagler-Heights Redevelopment Board

**Action:** Deferred.

International Swimming Hall of Fame Board of Directors

**Action:** Deferred.

**EXECUTIVE CLOSED DOOR SESSION 3:14 P.M.  
MEETING RECONVENED AT 3:49 P.M.**

**IV -- Commission Reports**

Southside School

Commissioner Hutchinson said that a great event was held on Saturday at Southside School, and she thanked Ted Lawson's Department, Phil Thornberg, Debbie who works for the Commissioner, and Albert Carbon and his group. She said the Alumni hats were a nice touch and the T-shirts brought in about \$300.

Tallahassee Trip

Commissioner Moore thanked the lobbyists for their hard work. He said that Mike Davis was very effective regarding the legislative issues for municipal governments, along with Jeff Atwater who also understood the issues. He said he was happy they had their resolution in-hand regarding growth management.

Vice Mayor Teel said it was a worthwhile trip and there appeared to be a more positive direction regarding the Baltimore Orioles and the Fort Lauderdale Stadium. She said the growth management meeting was very interesting. She thanked Jack Siler for his attendance and hard work regarding the grant.

Commissioner Moore said that Representative Smith's office was very congenial in attempting to endorse the City's issues.

**V – City Manager's Report**

The City Manager thanked Avril Dorsett and her team in working on the applications and filling of the police vacancies.

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Mayor Naugle said there is a need to hold an organization meeting in order to provide some direction to the City Manager in connection with this year's budget, and provide input to the new Commissioner.

Commissioner Moore said there needs to be a Commission workshop as he previously proposed in the past. Mayor Naugle suggested that such a meeting be held at the Executive Airport.

The City Manager said there has been some issues with the facilitator, and therefore, he recommends that the facilitator he used for his management team assist them. The Commission agreed and a date would be scheduled.

Mayor Naugle said the world premier of the movie "Hoot" which was filmed in this City would be held.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.